



**Broadcast Educational Media Commission Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
2470 North Star Road, Columbus, OH, 43221  
November 3, 2021**

- I. **Call to Order:** At 1:00 p.m., Dr. Osborn opened the meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission Finance Committee.

- A. **Roll Call:** At 1:00 p.m., roll call was conducted by Mrs. Gage.

**Members Present:**

Committee Chairman Dr. Jan Osborn  
Commissioner Matt Dole  
Designee Charles See

**Also Present in the Meeting:**

Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips

**Also Present Virtually:**

Laura Bryson, Chief Information Officer;  
Craig Stevenson, Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Officer;  
Alina Gage, Chief Financial Officer;  
Eric Wortman, Engineering Manager;  
interested citizens:  
Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations;  
Michael Thompson, Chief Content Director of WOSU & Chairman of Ohio Public Radio;  
Mark Jividen, Chairman of the Ohio Radio Reading Services Alliance;  
David Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc;  
Dan Shellenbarger, Executive Director of Ohio Government Telecommunications;  
Kitty Lensman, President and General Manager of WPTD/WCET/WPTO;  
and Mark Brewer, General Manager of WOUB

B. **Commission Action Items**

**Resolution 22-13: Approval of August 30, 2021 Minutes:** 1:05 p.m. –Mr. See moved for approval of the August 30, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Dole seconded. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## II. **Financial Statement**

- A. Mrs. Gage provided a review of the November 2021 financial report. BEMC is on-track for Fiscal Year 2022 spending and the first payment of subsidy funds has been delivered.

## III. **Subsidy Allocation Formula New Guidelines Update**

- A. Mrs. Gage continued that the subsidy payments were sent according to the new subsidy allocation formula. Radio Reading Service requested to include transmitters in the calculation for the first time in perhaps decades. This required a recalculation of the Radio Reading Service funds split and new MOU's to be drafted.
1. Mr. See asked if this change was affecting the bottom line (amount of subsidy distributed to the stations). Mrs. Gage replied it did not affect the total amount of funds distributed but did change the amount each station received. Ex. Dir. Phillips clarified the size of the pie did not change, but the slices are different sizes.

## IV. **FY23-28 Capital Projects**

- A. Executive Director Phillips introduced the FY23-28 capital package. All documents are noted in Draft status until the final submission to OBM. Mrs. Gage spoke about some non-substantial changes to the read ahead documents. Ex. Dir. Phillips then shared the amounts each broadcasting entity is asking in the FY23-24 capital request and that BEMC recommends all projects be given priority 1 ranking. Overall request is about \$4.4 million.
1. Chairman Osborn clarified the recommendation of BEMC to rank all projects as priority one. Ex. Dir. Phillips responded the interdependency of each broadcasting partner led to this recommendation.
  2. —Mr. Dole voiced his support of this recommendation. He also stated if it is required to have a rank (by OBM), the committee should have a ranking prepared to submit. Ex. Dir. confirmed that is the intent.

### B. **BEMC**

1. Mr. Stevenson spoke about the BEMC capital projects. These included replacing an air conditioner, archive storage, server replacement, online storage media, satellite receivers, and Telestream Lightspeed server for a total of \$1,097,110.

### C. **Public Broadcasting**

1. Mr. Jividen of the Ohio Radio Reading Service (ORRS) Alliance introduced the ORRS capital requests. Funding is requested for: Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired for soundproofing material for their studios; Youngstown Radio Reading Service for studio furnishing improvement; and VOICEcorps for a backup generator totaling \$97,662.
2. Ohio Public Television Chairman Mr. Martin provided an overview of the Joint Public Television and Public Radio request. He echoed agreement with the commissioners that the priority reflects the interdependence of the three

broadcasting partners. Mr. Martin shared many of the projects replace end-of-life equipment and invited Mr. Carwile to speak to the projects in more detail.

- i. Mr. Carwile said there are 33 projects identified and four stations decided not to request capital funds. He reiterated the age of much of the equipment.
  - ii. Ex. Dir. Phillips shared WYSO is asking for capital for the first time.
  - iii. Mr. Thompson expressed concurrence with the statements made and appreciation to Mr. Carwile's work.
  - iv. Mr. Carwile added due to the repack mandated by the FCC, some stations received some federal funding. WGTE did not receive the federal funds and thus have a higher capital ask to accommodate that repack.
3. Chairman Osborn expressed appreciation to the group at large for the work and clarity provided in the documents.
  - i. Mr. Dole asked for clarification on the process used by Public TV and Public Radio. Mr. Carwile stated the process began early explaining how the process works and rules to be followed. The team worked to get all stations to comparable equipment and instructed stations to ask for what is needed.
  - ii. Mr. Dole asked if there are requests submitted through other entities that BEMC does not know about. Mr. Carwile stated no. Mr. Martin concurred and that by coming together to work on the request, it prevents things like that from happening.

#### **D. Ohio Government Telecommunications**

1. Ex. Dir. Dan Shellenbarger of Ohio Government Telecommunications (OGT) provided an overview of the OGT request. OGT is seeking \$1.1 million to upgrade the audio in the entire Statehouse, in conjunction with Capitol Square Review Advisory Board (CSRAB).
  - i. Ex. Dir. Phillips read a portion of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3353 to support the audio request, highlighting multimedia support is a power granted to OGT in the ORC.
  - ii. Ex. Dir. Shellenbarger shared 2030 hours of live original programming occurred last year. Viewer counts are now at 35 million views. Audio has been a problem for many years and many components date back to 1996. This project presents an opportunity to solve an ongoing problem.
  - iii. Chairman Osborn asked if this would address viewers with hearing impairment. Ex. Dir. Shellenbarger stated that should be addressed in an existing project before December 31, 2021.
  - iv. Mr. See asked who will be responsible to install the new system. Ex. Dir. Shellenbarger replied CSRAB would manage the project with help

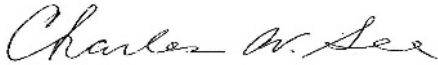
from OGT and additional conversations are occurring to determine who will own it after installation.

**Resolution 22-14: Motion to Recommend FY23-28 Capital Request to Commission:**

2:11 p.m. –Mr. Dole moved to recommend to the commission at next week’s meeting BEMC’s FY23-28 capital budget package and prioritize BEMC, Ohio Public Broadcasters (Ohio Public Television, Ohio Public Radio, and Ohio Radio Reading Services), and OGT projects equally, with each project group assigned as Priority #1, and authorize the Executive Director to make any adjustments as necessary to meet the OBM submission requirements. Mr. See seconded. Motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

V. **Adjournment**

**Resolution 22-15: Motion for Adjournment:** 2:13 p.m. –Mr. See moved to adjourn. Mr. Dole seconded. The adjournment motion passed via unanimous voice vote.



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Charles See, Interim Finance Committee Chairman  
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

March 13, 2023

Date